

In the Specification

Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

Insert a new title, as follows:

--~~Expandable Stinger Planter~~ Planting Machine and
Method--

Page 1, before the "Technical Field" section, insert the following:

-RELATED PATENT DATA

This patent resulted from a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/060,890, filed January 29, 2002, entitled "Expandable Stinger Planter", naming Daniel A. Culley as inventor, and which is now U.S. Patent No. _____, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.--

Replace paragraph [0023] on page 6 with the following paragraph:

[0023] Figs. 9 and 10 are ~~detail~~ detailed operational views of preferred probes and probe actuators;

Replace paragraph [0030] on pages 8-9 with the following paragraph:

[0030] In another aspect, the expandable stinger planter 10 is provided in combination with a vehicle 33

including a movable boom 36 extending to a boom end 38. A stinger mounting frame 12 is mounted to the boom end 38 for movement responsive to movement of the boom 36. A stinger ~~14, comprised~~ 14 is comprised of a pair of elongated probes 16 that are mounted to the stinger mounting frame 12. The probes extend to bottom ends 18 that are configured for ground penetration. An actuator assembly 20 on the stinger mounting frame 12, is connected to at least one of the probes to shift the bottom ends 18 relative to one another between a closed position wherein the bottom ends 18 are at least substantially closed together, and an open position wherein the bottom ends 18 are opened and form a plant discharge opening 22. An internal plant receiving receptacle 24 within the probes 16 is open to the plant discharge opening 22. A plant magazine 26 on the stinger mounting frame 12 is configured to receive and organize a plurality of plants P in a prescribed array. The plant magazine includes at least one plant release station 28 through which successive plants P may be discharged into the plant receiving receptacle 24. A plant feeder 30 adjacent the plant magazine is operable to move a plant P in the

plant magazine 26 to the plant release station 28. The plant magazine 26 and plant release station 28 are positioned in relation to the plant receiving receptacle 24 such that a plant P moved to the plant release station 28 may drop into the plant receiving receptacle 24, to be discharged from the plant receiving receptacle 24 through the plant discharge opening 22.

Replace paragraph [0031] on page 9 with the following paragraph:

[0031] In a still further aspect, the expandable stinger planter 10 includes a stinger mounting frame 12. A stinger 14, comprised of a pair of elongated probes 16 mounted to the stinger mounting frame 12 and extending to bottom ends ~~18~~—configured 18, is configured for ground penetration. An actuator assembly 20 on the stinger mounting frame 12, is connected to at least one of the probes 16 to shift the bottom ends 18 relative to one another between a closed position wherein the bottom ends 18 are at least substantially closed together, and an open position wherein the bottom ends 18 are opened and form a plant discharge opening 22. An internal plant receiving receptacle 24 (within the probes) is open to the plant

discharge opening 22. At least one packer member 40 is operably mounted to the stinger mounting frame 12 and is positioned adjacent the probes 16.

Replace paragraph [0032] on pages 9-10 with the following paragraph:

[0032] In a yet further aspect, the expandable stinger planter 10 includes a vehicle 33 including a movable boom 36 extending to a boom end 38. A stinger mounting frame 12 is mounted to the boom end 38 for movement responsive to movement of the boom 36. A stinger 14, comprised of a pair of elongated probes ~~16~~ is 16, is mounted to the stinger mounting frame 12 and extends to bottom ends 18 that are configured for ground penetration. An actuator assembly 20 on the stinger mounting frame is connected to at least one of the probes 16 to shift the bottom ends 18 relative to one another between a closed position wherein the bottom ends 18 are at least substantially closed together, and an open position wherein the bottom ends 18 are opened and form a plant discharge opening 22. An internal plant receiving receptacle 24 within the probes 16 ~~that~~ is open to the plant discharge opening 22. At least one packer

member 40 is operably mounted to the stinger mounting frame 12 and positioned adjacent the probes 16.

Replace paragraph [0038] on page 12 with the following paragraph:

[0038] It is pointed out that other mounting arrangements may be provided between the stinger mounting frame 12 and vehicle. For example, a pivoted suspension arrangement could be provided as set forth in my Applicant's prior United States patents as incorporated by reference above.

Replace paragraph [0040] on page 13 with the following paragraph:

[0040] More specifically, a preferred form of the linkages 50 may include bell cranks 51 and idler links 52 pivotally mounted to the stinger mounting frame 12 and having ends thereof connected to the probe actuators ~~and~~ at upward ends of the probes. The actuators may be provided in the form of hydraulic ram cylinders 53 as illustrated or other actuator or linear actuator arrangements by which force is applied to cause movement of the probe ends 18 toward and away from one another. It is preferable to provide individually moveable probes with actuators 20 spaced

to opposed sides of the plant receiving receptacle 24 to facilitate downward reception of successive plants from the preferred magazine 26 above. To this end, the ram cylinder actuators are preferably mounted in substantial alignment with the probes 16.

Replace paragraph [0046] on pages 15-16 with the following paragraph:

[0046] To accomplish the above, the exemplary probe arrangements may be mounted to the stinger mounting frame 12 adjacent an associate probe. The preferred packer member is a wheel 62 ~~slidable~~ slidably mounted by a slide carriage 71 and guide rod arrangements 63 to the stinger mounting frame 12. The preferred packer wheel 62 is also moveable responsive to a biasing member 64 that normally urges the associated packer member toward the probe bottom ends 18.

Replace paragraph [0052] on page 18 with the following paragraph:

[0052] Once the desired number of plants are loaded into the holders 59, the vehicle operator may move the vehicle into a position where planting is to occur. The operator may then use the appropriate

controls to move the boom into position with the probes 16 engaging the ground or other plant media at a selected site. Appropriate controls are then operated to force the probes into the ground to a desired depth (Fig. 4). At this time or slightly previous to this time, the user may operate the plant feeder 40 by selecting one of the rotary drive ~~assemblys~~ assemblies 60 to bring a selected plant P into alignment with an adjacent plant release station 28. Once the selected plant holder comes into alignment with the release station, the plant will drop freely through the release station 28 and into the plant receiving receptacle 24 between the closed probes 16. The plant is now in position to be released.